

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A system for providing a scheduled series of individualized doses, each of which comprises a plurality of supplements and/or medications (MS), comprising:

a packetizing system adapted to package a plurality of pills, ~~or equivalent~~, from a pill repository into separate doses within a scheduled series of doses;

a computer system operably connected to said packetizing system and adapted to access said pill repository to control the dispensing of pills from said repository and the packaging of said pills within packetizing system; and

an interface associated with said computer wherethrough a dosing schedule [[may be]] is specified into which supplements and/or medications (MS) from said pill repository [[may be]] are entered to create a description of a series of doses which is communicated to said packetizing system for packaging said series of doses.

2. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said packetizing system, comprises:

a pill repository adapted to dispense a custom assortment of individual pills from a plurality of supplements and/or medications (MS) into a single MS dose; and

a packaging device adapted to receive a series of said single MS doses and to separately package said MS doses for use by a consumer.

3. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 2, further comprising a

labeling device configured for printing ~~which prints~~ a textual and/or graphic indicia upon,
or configured for, attachment to each of said ~~[[MS]]~~ medication and/or supplement
doses.

4. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said interface comprises a web site being hosted on the Internet which is operably connected to said computer system.

5. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said interface is ~~adapted to receive~~ configured for receiving authorizations from a physician, or other authorized medical practitioner, when said medications to be ~~[[being]]~~ packaged within said series of doses includes prescription medications.

6. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising an ~~interaction/contraindication~~ interaction and contraindication checking routine being executed on said computer system which checks said supplements and/or medications being entered into said schedule for possible interactions and contraindications with medical conditions and generates alerts in response thereto.

7. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a purchase transaction routine executing on said computer which is adapted to process a financial transaction associated with said series of doses being communicated to said packetizing system.

8. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said interface is adapted to receive information from an institution comprising a plurality of dosing schedules and the associated supplements and/or medications for a plurality of patients, or equivalent, which are under the care of said institution.

9. (canceled): A system for generating orders for individualized temporal doses in response to user input, or equivalent, comprising:

a computer system adapted for accessing a database of medicine and/or supplement information associated with a pill repository; and

an interface routine executing on said computer wherethrough an assortment of medications and/or supplements from said pill repository may be specified for incorporation within said temporal dose of said order for communication to a fulfillment system in association with said pill repository.

10. (canceled): A system as recited in claim 9, wherein said interface is adapted to allow for specifying said assortment of medications and/or supplements for insertion within a dosing schedule.

11. (canceled): An apparatus for packaging an assortment of pills within an **MS** dose according to a received order for individualized MS doses wherein each said MS dose includes a custom assortment of medicines and/or supplements (MS) for

consumption by a specific consumer, comprising:

dispensing bins adapted to retain unpackaged pills and to dispense a selected number of said pills;

a conveyance system interconnecting a series of said dispensing bins which collectively define a pill repository adapted for retaining an assortment of said supplements and/or medicines;

individual dose bins or dose compartments within said conveyance system which are adapted for collecting said pills for said MS dose;

a packaging system adapted to transfer each of said MS doses from said individual dose bins or dose compartments into individually accessible packages for distribution to said consumer; and

an electronic control system operably connected to said conveyance system, said dispensing bins and said packaging system; and

a control program executing on said electronic control system which directs the dispensing bins to selectively dispense pills within selected dose bins or dose compartments of said conveyance system in accord with each MS dose within said order which is directed to move said MS doses to said packaging system which retrieves said MS doses from said conveyance system and packages said doses for said consumer.

12. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising a labeling system adapted for the application of text and/or graphic indicia to said temporal doses.

13. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 12,
wherein said indicia contains a consumer identification for which the doses have
been created;

wherein said indicia contains an temporal identifier as to the time at which said
dose is to be taken by said consumer.

14. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said conveyance
system comprises a track interconnecting said dispensing bins and a vehicle having
said individual bins or compartments into which said dispensing bins are directed to
dispense pills.

15. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein each of said
vehicles incorporates an identifier wherein their location along said track in relation to
said dispensing bins may be determined.

16. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said vehicle is
powered by a linear electromagnetic drive.

17. (canceled): An apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising a dose
checking station which is adapted to inspect the set of separate individualized custom
doses for compliance with said order.

18. (canceled): A method of dispensing individualized doses of medications

and/or supplements for use by a consumer at a location which is removed from the dispensing site, comprising:

selecting a plurality of supplements and/or medications to be dispensed within each of a series of doses;

packaging said doses of said selected supplements and/or medications into dose packets, or equivalent; and

delivering said dose packets to said consumer.

19. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising establishing a dose schedule for said consumer into which said selected supplements and/or medications are entered.

20. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said dose schedule specifies fixed times at which said consumer is to utilize said supplements and/or medications within said dose packet.

21. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said selected supplements and/or medications may be entered into said dosing schedule according to a dosing profile selected from dosing profiles consisting of accelerated dosing, decelerated dosing, and interrupted periodic dosing.

22. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising saving

information about said selections within a set of consumer information for subsequent use by said consumer.

23. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising identifying a particular consumer, or equivalent authorized party on behalf of said consumer, prior to providing access to said consumer information.

24. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising labeling each of said dose packets, or equivalent, with a consumer identification.

25. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising labeling each of said dose packets, or equivalent, with a time specifier designating when said consumer is to utilize the contents of said dose packet.

26. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising communicating an authorization for any prescription medications which are specified for inclusion within said dosing schedule.

27. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said dosing schedule and said selection of supplements and/or medications for inclusion therein are controlled through an web site interface accessible over the Internet, or equivalent.

28. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

checking said selected supplements and/or medications against an interaction database to ascertain the probability of an interaction; and
generating an alert in response to a sufficient probability of interaction.

29. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:
entering medical information for said consumer;
checking each selected medication and/or supplement separately and in the selected combinations for contraindications with entered medical information according to a database of medical information; and
generating an alert in response to the possibility of said contraindications.

30. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising submitting of said dosing schedule and said selected medications and/or supplements to an outside party prior to the said packaging of said doses.

31. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 30, wherein said outside party comprises a party or organization that operates in a capacity to advise the consumer on said dosing schedule and said medications and/or supplements as selected for each of said doses.

32. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 30, wherein said outside party comprises a party or organization with a health insurance company, or equivalent party with a fiduciary relationship with said consumer.

33. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising executing a purchase transaction for said selected medicines and/or supplements which are to be dispensed.

34. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising an automatic recurrent ordering process wherein subsequent medications and/or supplements are delivered to said consumer without the necessity of order placement.

35. (canceled): A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:
packaging said plurality of said doses into a shipping container; and
shipping said package of said doses to a destination for use by a consumer.

36. (new): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said pills comprise conventional pills, capsules, caplets, gel caps, and/or lozenges.

37. (new): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein doses from said dose schedule are packetized into a time sequential series of dose packets for a single recipient or patient, or multiple recipients or patients.

38. (new): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said packetizing system packetizes said doses within sealed single dose packets.

39. (new): A system as recited in claim 1:

wherein packetizing system is configured for,

automated collecting of one or more scheduled series of individualized doses within separate dose compartments of a conveyance system,

sealing individualized doses from said separate dose compartments into individually separate packets.

40. (new): A system as recited in claim 3, wherein said labeling device is configured for printing a recipient identifier and the time that the dose is to be taken according to the dosing schedule.

41. (new): A system as recited in claim 7, wherein said purchase transaction comprises a financial transaction which occurs in response to said transaction, or which is triggered by said purchase transaction in response to the medications and supplements contained within the order.

42. (new): A system for providing a scheduled series of individualized doses to a recipient, comprising

means for packetizing a plurality of pills containing supplements and/or medications from a pill repository into separable individually sealed multi-pill doses;

an interface configured for receiving and/or establishing a dosing schedule;

a computer system operably connected to said packetizing means and said interface; and

programming configured for execution on said computer for,
indicating availability of pills within said pill repository,
establishing a dosing schedule over said interface, said dosing schedule
describing a series of scheduled individualized doses to be taken by said
recipient,
selecting pills from said pill repository for fulfilling said dosing schedule,
directing said packetizing means for dispensing of pills into a series of
individualized doses from said pill repository according to said dosing schedule,
directing said packetizing means for the packaging of said series of doses
in preparation for delivery to said recipient.

43. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said packetizing system,
comprises:

a pill repository configured for dispensing a custom assortment of individual pills
from a plurality of supplements and/or medications (MS) into a single MS dose;

a packaging device configured for receiving a series of said single MS doses and
to separately package said MS doses for use by a consumer; and

a labeling device configured for printing a textual and/or graphic indicia upon, or
configured for, attachment to each of said MS doses.

44. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said interface comprises
a web site being hosted on the Internet which is operably connected to said computer
system and configured to process orders from individual buyers and from institutional

buyers.

45. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said interface is configured for receiving authorizations from a physician, or authorized medical practitioner, when said medications to be packaged within said series of doses includes prescription medications.

46. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said programming further comprises:

interaction and contraindication checking of said supplements and/or medications within said dosing schedule for possible interactions and contraindications with medical conditions; and

generating an alert in response to interactions and contraindications.

47. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said programming further comprises:

transacting an order to purchase said medications and supplements contained within said scheduled series of doses spanning a specified interval;

said transaction comprising a financial transaction arising in response to said transaction, or triggered by said purchase transaction.

48. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said interface is adapted to receive information from an institution comprising a plurality of dosing

schedules and the associated supplements and/or medications for a plurality of patients, or equivalent, which are under the care of said institution.

49. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said recipient comprises an individual, or a patient at a care facility or hospital.

50. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein doses from said dose schedule are packetized covering a selected time span range and into a time sequential series of dose packets for a single recipient or patient.

51. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein doses from said dose schedule are packetized cover a selected time span range and into a time sequential series of dose packets for multiple recipients.

52. (new): A system as recited in claim 51, wherein said dose packets are sequentially organized by the time that each dose is to be taken across the range of multiple patients for which sequential series of dose schedules has been established.

53. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said programming is further configured for maintaining said dosing schedules for future access, and for automatically dispensing and packetizing another scheduled series of doses in response to said dosing schedule.

54. (new): A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said computer comprises multiple distributed computers interconnected by a communication link.

55. (new): A system for providing a scheduled series of individualized doses to a consumer, comprising

means for packetizing a plurality of pills containing supplements and/or medications from a pill repository into separable individually sealed multi-pill doses;

a user interface configured for receiving and/or establishing a dosing schedule for said consumer;

a computer system operably connected to said packetizing means and said user interface; and

programming configured for execution on said computer for,

indicating availability of pills within said pill repository,

establishing a dosing schedule over said interface, said dosing schedule describing a series of time-sequential individualized doses to be taken by said consumer,

selecting pills from said pill repository for fulfilling said dosing schedule,

directing said packetizing means for dispensing pills into a sequential series of individualized doses from said pill repository according to said dosing schedule,

directing said packetizing means for packetizing said series of doses within sealed single dose packets,

providing to said packetizing means a user identification and a time for

which each said dose packet is to be taken by said consumer,

directing said packetizing means for packaging said plurality of said doses into a shipping container,

generating shipping information to said packetizing means for the shipping of said package to a destination for use by said consumer.

56. (new): A system as recited in claim 55, wherein said pills comprise conventional pills, capsules, caplets, gel caps, and/or lozenges.

57. (new): A system as recited in claim 55, wherein said interface comprises a web site being hosted on the Internet which is operably connected to said computer system and configured to process orders from individual buyers and from institutional buyers.

58. (new): A system as recited in claim 55, wherein said interface is configured for receiving authorizations from a physician, or authorized medical practitioner, when said medications to be packaged within said series of doses includes prescription medications.

59. (new): A system as recited in claim 55, wherein said programming further comprises:

interaction and contraindication checking of said supplements and/or medications within said dosing schedule for possible interactions and contraindications

with medical conditions; and

generating an alert in response to detecting interaction and contraindications.

60. (new): A system for providing a scheduled series of individualized doses to a recipient, comprising

means for packetizing a plurality of pills containing supplements and/or medications from a pill repository into separable individually sealed multi-pill doses;

an interface configured for receiving and/or establishing a dosing schedule;

a computer system operably connected to said packetizing means and said interface; and

programming configured for execution on said computer for,

indicating availability of pills within said pill repository,

establishing a dosing schedule over said interface, said dosing schedule describing a series of scheduled individualized doses to be taken by said recipient,

selecting pills from said pill repository for fulfilling said dosing schedule,

organizing the order in which individualized doses are fulfilled for a multiple recipient order to either be in time sequence order for each individual patient, or a time sequence that spans the range of multiple patients;

directing said packetizing means for dispensing of pills into a series of individualized doses from said pill repository according to said dosing schedule,

directing said packetizing means for the packaging of said series of doses in preparation for delivery to said recipient.

61. (new): A system as recited in claim 60, wherein said pills comprise conventional pills, capsules, caplets, gel caps, and/or lozenges.

62. (new): A system as recited in claim 60, wherein said programming further comprises:

interaction and contraindication checking of said supplements and/or medications within said dosing schedule for possible interactions and contraindications with medical conditions; and

generating an alert in response to detecting interaction and contraindications.